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OFFICE

Timothy Blubaugh
Director

Freightliner LLC
10000 North American Blvd
Meridian, MS 39301
662-430-2200
www.freightlinertrucks.com

September 29, 2006

06V-387
(5 pages)

Dan Smith
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Defect Information Report FL-480, ArvinMeritor RPL20 Interaxle Drivelines

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall nine Freightliner Columbia trucks manufactured July 11, 2006 to August 31, 2006 with a defect in the interaxle driveline.

Attached are Freightliner's Defect Information Report and the Defect Information Report from ArvinMeritor, NHTSA 06E-081.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Blubaugh

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail# 7002-3150-0004-1405-4264



A DaimlerChrysler Company

Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

September 28, 2006

(c)(1) **Manufacturer:** Freightliner LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 745-5219

Brands: Freightliner

(c)(2) **Vehicles identification:**

Model(s) affected: Columbia

Model Years affected: 2007

Manufacture Dates: July 11, 2006 to August 31, 2006

Basis for determining population: These drivelines are purchased for specific vehicle serial numbers. ArvinMeritor furnished a list of the affected drivelines with the VINs.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

ArvinMeritor, Inc.
2135 W. Maple Rd.
Troy, MI 48084

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** 9

Note: most of the drivelines identified on ArvinMeritor's Defect Information Report and shipped to Freightliner were installed on vehicles manufactured for export markets.

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** See Attached Defect Information Report from ArvinMeritor

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** See Attached Defect Information Report from ArvinMeritor, NHTSA 06E-081.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: See Attached Defect Information Report from ArvinMeritor

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** See Attached Defect Information Report from ArvinMeritor. Freightliner received a copy of this report September 20, 2006

(c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** not applicable

(c)(8) **Remedial program:** Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Freightliner to do their own warranty repairs. The notification to dealers will be sent approximately November 24, 2006. Drivelines with missing or incorrectly installed snap rings will be replaced.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Customer notification will be by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately November 24, 2006.

Reimbursement Plan: All prior repairs were covered by warranty.

(c)(9) **Communications sent to dealers and owners:** Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c)(10) **Copy of proposed owner notification letter:** A draft will be sent for ODI review when available.

(c)(11) **Manufacturer's campaign number:** FL-480

September 20, 2006

Administrator of Enforcement
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Fax: 202-366-7882

Re: Defect Information Report, in accordance with 49 CFR §573.6, concerning certain RPL20 High Angle inter-axle drivelines assembled and shipped to ArvinMeritor customers between June 15, 2006 and August 28, 2006

ArvinMeritor File: C6AB

NHTSA File: Unassigned

Dear Sir /Madam:

ArvinMeritor, Inc. submits this Defect Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR §573.6. The information is presented to correspond to the sub-paragraphs of section §573.6(c).

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(1)

This report is submitted by:

ArvinMeritor, Inc.
2135 West Maple Road
Troy, Michigan 48084-7186

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(2) - Identification of vehicle or items of motor vehicle equipment:

The affected motor vehicle equipment is RPL20 High Angle inter-axle drivelines with the following base part numbers:

20RHM008B	20RHM016B	20RHS004B
20RHM009B	20RHM017B	20RHS005B
20RHM010B	20RHM018B	20RHS038B
20RHM011B	20RHM019B	20RHS039B
20RHM012B	20RHM020B	20RHS041B
20RHM013B	20RHM025B	20RHS046B
20RHM014B	20RHM026B	
20RHM015B		

The affected customers and quantities are as listed below:

OEM	Quantity Shipped	Quantity Contained	Remedy Quantity
Freightliner Corporation Attn: Steve Payne P.O. Box 3849 Portland, Oregon 97208-3849 Phone: 503-745-5219	108	0	108



Volvo Trucks North America Inc.
Attn: Tim L. Lafon
7900 National Service Rd. (27409)
PO Box 26115
Greensboro, NC 27402-6115
Phone: 336-393-2233

	5,317	1,634	3,683
TOTAL	5,425	1,634	3,791

The population of potential affected axles was determined by manufacturing records maintained by ArvinMeritor's Laurinburg facility located at 22021 Skyway Church Rd., Maxton, NC 28364

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(3) – Total number of vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment affected:

ArvinMeritor has determined that approximately 3,791 RPL20 High Angle inter-axle drivelines were shipped during this period. A total 6 field incidents have been reported with this issue.

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(4) – Percentage of vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment affected:

ArvinMeritor has determined that approximately 0.54% of the above mentioned population contains the nonconforming drivelines that are the subject of this report.

Information Requested under §§573.6(c)(5) – Description of the defect:

An improperly seated or missing snap ring can result in the bearing cup to separate from the slip yoke sub-assembly. The universal joint cross could then contact the slip yoke casting and eventually cause the ear work to fracture. This could result in additional damage to the driveline, the vehicle to which it is attached and any additional nearby objects.

Information Requested under §§573.6(c)(6) – Chronology of principal events:

August 16, 2006	Initial report of driveline issue received through warranty system (ONTRAC)
August 23, 2006	Receipt of additional details relating to the initially reported warranty claim.
August 28, 2006	Laurinburg initiated action to check all parts in house and increased inspection process
August 30, 2006	Laurinburg plant placed in controlled shipping containment with an additional 100% inspection at shipping time of all RPL shaft snap ring insertions. Also, initiated containment at OEM location and start of formal problem solving event.
September 12, 2006	Conclusion of investigation and analysis

September 13, 2006 ArvinMeritor determined that safety-related defect may exist in certain RPL20 High Angle inter-axle drivelines.

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(7) – Test results or data supporting non-compliance:

This issue described herein does not relate to FMVSS noncompliance

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(8) – Description of remedy:

All trucks built at Volvo Trucks NA and Freightliner LLC equipped with RPL20 High Angle inter-axle driveline that were manufactured at Laurinburg, NC between the dates of June 15, 2006 and August 28, 2006 will be inspected for snap ring insertion and retention using a NOGO gage. Any truck that is found to be non-conforming should have the inter-axle driveline removed and replaced with a new inter-axle driveline.

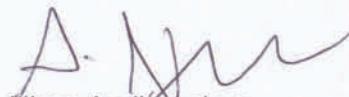
Attached with this notice is the Defect and Noncompliance notice planned to be sent to the affected customers.

In addition, ArvinMeritor has determined that none of the suspect drivelines have been remedied prior to this notification and, therefore, that no general pre-notification reimbursement remedy program is required.

We trust that the information provided in this document is fully responsive to the requirements of 49 CFR §573.5. All additions or modifications to any of the information given will be reported promptly to NHTSA. Any questions with respect to the information provided should be directed to the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

ArvinMeritor



Niran Audimoolam
Project Manger
Product Safety and Compliance

Enclosures

- Defect and Noncompliance Notice to OEM's
- Repair Procedure